



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - October 18, 2002

- ***In the West***, beneficial showers are diminishing across **Arizona** and **New Mexico**, while warm, dry weather favors fieldwork elsewhere in the region. However, dryland winter grains in the **Northwest** are in need of moisture to ensure proper autumn establishment.
- ***On the Plains***, a developing storm system is maintaining favorable soil moisture levels for pastures and winter wheat across much of **Oklahoma** and **Texas**. In contrast, mild, breezy weather prevails on the **central and northern High Plains**, aiding fieldwork operations but reducing soil moisture for wheat establishment.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, the latest in a series of cold fronts is crossing the **upper Mississippi Valley**, maintaining cool, showery conditions and causing additional corn and soybean harvest delays. Elsewhere in the **Midwest**, cool, mostly dry weather favors fieldwork, including summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting.
- ***In the South***, rice, soybean, and cotton harvesting is progressing in the soggy **Delta** as field conditions permit. Cool, dry weather is promoting fieldwork elsewhere in the region.

Outlook: During the weekend, a storm system will produce moderate to locally heavy rainfall across the **southern Plains** and **Delta**, while showers are also likely along a cold front in the **Ohio** and **Tennessee Valleys**. Showers will also spread into the **Mid-Atlantic** and **Southeastern States**. Elsewhere, unseasonably cold weather will continue from the **northern Plains to the Great Lakes region**. Farther west, warm, dry weather will return to the **Desert Southwest**. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 23-27 calls for below-normal temperatures **east of the Rockies**, but warmer-than-normal weather in the **Pacific Northwest**. Above-normal precipitation is forecast from the **southern Rockies eastward to the southern Atlantic Coast**, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected across the **northern half of the U.S.**

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